SIERRA CLUB YODELER

VOL. IX January 6, 1947 Number 1

CONSERVATION IN ACTION
by Paul Chenoweth

Since the 1945 fire, "Beautiful Marin" has been most unpleasantly scarred over some thirty square miles. On January 5 the Local Walks Committee took direct action in an effort to restore a portion of this devastated area.

With a crew of 43 ardent, embryonic foresters, 40,000 tree seeds were planted on the slopes north of Potrero Meadows. This area is the normal habitat of Douglas Fir; therefore, 95% of the seed will feel at home. The remaining 5% of White Fir was planted primarily because it was present on the occasion.

Should the viable seed escape the elements of erosion and drought, the foraging of birds and rodents, and the ravages of disease and insects, there remains a further hazard (preventable): the boots of the over-zealous forester who would inspect the results of his personal plantings. Late November is the earliest date when a reliable check on results can be made. It would be wonderful to have 1%, or 400 seedlings, escape these and other mortality factors during the first year.

The seed was furnished through the courtesy of Al Glenn and the U.S. Forest Service. The present Local Walks Committee, which has done such a splendid job the past 14 months, is well deserving of commendation for this valuable contribution to conservation in Marin. It is hoped that further similar well-planned work will be done by all outdoor clubs in the great remaining devastation.

ACTION NEEDED TO SAVE WILDERNESS
by Arthur H. Blake

You who read so regularly the conservation articles in the Yodeler and so often ask how you can help save some small part of the vanishing wilderness, can roll up your sleeves and go to work.

For prompt action by individuals is indicated in the matter of the Forest Service proposal to modify the boundaries of the San Gorgonio Primitive Area to permit the development of the area for winter recreation.

If previous actions of the Board of Directors in opposition to the proposal, or articles in the Bulletin and Yodeler or other channels of information have helped you form your opinion, write today (do not delay action) to P. A. Thompson, Regional Forester, U. S. Forest Service, San Francisco. If you care to go further, write Lyle Watts, Chief Forester of the United States, Washington, D.C., and even to the Secretary of Agriculture, himself, in Washington.

Remember that the hearing will be at San Bernardino on February 19th, and that the individual protest is as important as the official view of the Sierra Club and other local and national conservation organizations which will have personal representatives present.

Those who want further information on the subject will find in the January issue of the Bulletin a very fine article prepared by the Editorial Board in collaboration with a representative cross section of club members and officers. To give a complete picture, there is even presented an anonymous article by a (Cont. p. 4)



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Next Deadline:
Monday, January 20, 1947, 6 PM

Volume IX, Number 1, January 6, 1947

With this issue the new Yodeler year begins. Not that it will be amazingly different--but, friends and readers, it will once more have a Yodeleditor! The Yodeler Staff takes great pleasure in announcing the appointment of Vivian Schagen to this far from easy office. We are very happy and grateful that she is willing to take the responsibility, and we know that our readers will be happy to hear it too.

As you know, the Yodeler has been getting itself out with the combined efforts of all the staff since last August--a temporary arrangement which served very well--temporarily. We don't think we have done so badly, but we think we'll do better with an Editor-in-chief. And the masthead will have a more complete look too!

So here's to 1947, and a good year for our Yodeleditor and for us all!

--Yodeler Staff

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The circulation department of the Yodeler owes an apology to someone. A member gave the Yodeler to a friend for Christmas, and asked us to send our usual greeting card. The name of the donor was mislaid, and we do not know which of the December new subscribers should have the card. Please call the office, or write, if you are the one to collect our apologies. --CMC

YODELEARS HEAR--

--of the arrival of David Alan Tepfer on December 10--he'll probably help fill that large house that Bert and Sandy have in Farragut, Idaho.

--that Joanette Trumley sailed on the "Matsonia" on December 28 to join Don in Honolulu. We hope she landed before the big storm!

--that Jerry Parrish has a new Loma Prieta hiker in his family: Peter Frederick, born December 18.

--of a remedy for frostbite that does not seem to be well known--at least in our circles. In "Singing Waters", Ann Bridge, describing a 1914 climb on Monte Rosa in the Alps, says that after one of the climbing party suffered a frostbitten nose, "... we all tied handkerchiefs over our noses, and got down off the ridge out of the wind, and put brandy in our boots; we ended up by making a new route down, because we didn't dare face the wind on the ridge again." At present brandy prices, we hesitate to try it--but can someone tell us if (and how) it works?

--that Jerry Abrahamson will be on Jorgy's staff at Echo Lake for the next three or four months.

--that Madge Torrance, who has made many friends during her year in California, is returning to New York. We hope she'll be back here sometime.

--that Barbara (Bacon) and Tom Hinshaw welcomed the arrival of Helen Winifred on December 21, and took her home on Christmas Day.

* * * *

MISSING. Three pictures from Connie Menzies' photograph album, which was on exhibit in the Club office, have disappeared. As Connie has no negatives of these prints, and therefore cannot replace them, she asks if anyone finds them, please to return them to her at Inverness, California. The pictures are: 1942-Laundry at Forester Lake; and Hi-Trippers photographing group on snow at Columbine Lake. 1946-Climbing Mt. Langley.

APARTMENT urgently needed for couple and new baby. Rent up to $60 per month. Telephone Allan Watkins, UNderhill 1486 (daytime).

FIRST EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM OF 1947

Those of us who saw some of Lewis Clark's "Snow-chromes" at the annual dinner will be happy to meet them again at the next Educational meeting January 28th. Lewis has some of the finest winter pictures we have ever seen, and he describes them well. Also on this program we expect to show pictures of the beautiful wilderness area at the top of Mt. San Gorgonio, which is now the bone of contention between those who love summer camping in the unspoiled wild, and those who would open it to winter sports with all the civilized trimmings. This is the "Problem of the Month", to be decided within the next few weeks, and we have asked Dick Leonard to outline the pros and cons of the argument and tell us what the Sierra Club directors are doing about it. The place of the meeting will be announced by postcard later.

Don't forget that we are planning to repeat that fine Alaska program, with the motion picture "Wild Life at Denali" for the benefit of our large East Bay membership and friends. Date will be Wednesday February 5th. Place to be announced by postcard later.

We are glad to report that the Bay Chapter Executive Committee has appointed Malcolm Smith to be Vice-Chairman of the Chapter Educational Committee. Malcolm will have charge of finding halls in which to hold our meetings. It is a tough job, and we appreciate his willingness to accept it. --C.M.C

1947 WILL BE A BUSY YEAR!

Most of the Bay Chapter's activity committees have now been organized for the coming year. Helene Glass, Publications Chairman, is currently the busiest of all, getting copy in and the new schedule out. Local Walks, under the temporary chairmanship of Larry Enos and Al Glenn, has a record number of personnel: 15. (Surely a permanent chairman will be developed from this number!) Helen Rudy has taken over Entertainment, and we know that she's a real organizer and planner where parties are concerned, and that her parties are fun, too.

Ken Adam will continue to head the Membership Committee, and Cicely Christy and Malcolm Smith are Co-Chairman of the Educational Committee. Cy Washburn is handling the Tuesday Dinners--also temporarily, as he's looking for a successor.

AHWAHNEE REHABILITATED.

Since early last spring I have had the enviable opportunity of working with Jeannette Dyer Spencer who, with her husband, Eldridge T. Spencer, was given the assignment of redecorating the world-famous Ahwahnee Hotel in Yosemite National Park. (The Spencers are responsible for our own Club Office in the Mills Tower).

The hotel had its official opening December 20th, having undergone a complete "rehabilitation" after its service during the war as a Navy hospital.

Ahwahnee means "deep grassy valley" and was the name used by the early Indian inhabitants, who called themselves Ahwahneechees. The original style of the hotel was taken from the native motifs and patterns used by these California Indians in their baskets. In the redecoration of the hotel, Mrs. Spencer has retained the Indian character of the original decoration and has introduced fresh eye-appeal in new fabrics of her own design. The key colors of the Ahwahnee are now "earth and slate"...a handsome combination in perfect harmony with the Valley.

The Main Lounge, though of vast proportions, has been given an intimate and livable atmosphere by the use of warm, yet subtle, color. A primitive-style mural, by Frann Spencer, elder daughter of the Spencers, has been painted on the tremendous chimney-breast.

A completely surprising addition to the Entrance Lobby is a gigantic lamp made of an old Indian storage jar which stands over four feet high. (Three people could stand comfortably (?) inside the shade... I know, I did!) It will become, undoubtedly, as famous a meeting place at the Ahwahnee as "the clock" is at the St. Francis.

There are many things I could tell you about...gooseneck brackets, domes of silence, "Poppy"...there is a story for each. That would take a long time to chronicle and I haven't too much to spare at the moment.

However, I hope many of my Sierra Club friends will have the pleasure of visiting the Ahwahnee in 1947.

-- Jean C. Gilfillan

The photographs of wild animals by Paul Fair, recently exhibited in the Club rooms, can now be seen at North American Hall, California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park--until March 1.

AN INVITATION: The Oakland Ski Club invites Sierra Club members to its 2nd Annual Skiers Ball, Jan. 17 at the Oakland Scottish Rite Temple, 1547 Oak Street.

After-ski-clothes and informal wear are advocated. $1.50 admission includes a lot--even $200.00 worth of door prizes.

Blake (Cont. from p. 1) club member who believes the modification justified.

Please keep in mind that the proposed modification order cuts the heart out of the wilderness area; that subsequent development is in an area of considerable avalanche hazard; that the San Gorgonio Primitive Area is the only primitive area left in southern California; that good skiers now use its slopes with less effort than many of us expend in reaching Peter Grubb Hut at Norden or the Mt. Shasta Alpine Lodge; and that in summer many thousands of young folks (estimated at 14,000 annually) are now able to get acquainted with a real bit of wild country at the foot of the slopes and at the summit of San Gorgonio.

Also, bear in mind that so far, the Forest Service has presented no actual plan of the development they expect to permit. The plan they considered in 1940 and 1941 called for tramways to the summit of the mountain and this proposal could again be behind the present vague statements of no development above the base of Christmas Tree Hill.

Do not overlook the fact that tramways, if built, would probably be used the year round. Profit possibilities are too good to ignore such an opportunity.

We should not forget, however, that the new Regional Forester, P. A. Thompson, has inherited this problem through the decision of his predecessors and so let's be fair and logical in whatever protest we make. We also expect that the Forest Service, in its hearing, will be fair to all concerned. It certainly should be, for the Forest Service, itself, originated for the policy of wilderness areas more than twenty years ago and has expended unlimited effort convincing us we should support that policy. Furthermore, let's not forget that the future security of all wilderness areas may hinge on the decision in the case of the San Gorgonio Primitive Area.

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* NATURAL SCIENCE SECTION *
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Forthcoming Los Banos Trip

The first NSS trip to more distant fields in some years is scheduled for Sunday, January 19th when, with Joanne Taylor as leader, we visit the Los Banos Game Refuge. Last year at this season visitors to the Refuge counted over 50 species of birds, highlights of the day including hundreds of White-fronted Geese, Holboell's Grebe, Bitterns and Sandhill Cranes.

We have arranged to have our own bus so to be sure of a place send in your reservation as soon as possible.

Round trip fare: $3.25
Send checks payable to
Joanne Taylor
1176 Shattuck Ave.
Berkeley 7, Calif.

Deadline for reservations will be January 15th.

No cancellations accepted after Wednesday, January 15th.

Bus leaves 7th and Mission Depot, San Francisco, at 6:30 a.m.

Ask dispatcher for whereabouts of Sierra Club chartered bus. Dick Johnson is San Francisco organizer.

Bus leaves 20th and San Pablo Depot, Oakland at 7:15 a.m. Joanne Taylor is East Bay organizer.

Bring warm clothing. Prepare for rain.

For further information telephone Joanne Taylor: Day - BA 5100; Night - Ash 7169.

When bus capacity is reached the requests will be placed on a waiting list. Those on the waiting will be notified by mail or phone January 16th whether or not they can be accommodated.

Evening Meeting

On January 17th, the regular NSS monthly meeting will be held as preparation for the Los Banos trip at the California Academy of Sciences, in North American Hall at 8:00 p.m. Miss Grace Crowe will speak on "Bird Migration" using study skins and exhibits of the Los Banos area. Take B, N or 7 streetcars, transfer to 10th Avenue Park Bus, getting off at the Aquarium.

NEW YEAR'S AT NORDEN

Two degrees - or was it five - above zero the few nights before New Year's, together with a partial overcast, went far toward making New Year skiing all a skier dreams about. Not that it takes good snow to make New Year's Eve at Norden a good party - but it helps.

Between college students on vacation and a large number of others who had judiciously planned a Christmas-New Year holiday, Clair Tappaan was crowded to capacity the entire New Year week, the only vacant bunks were those of two girls who went home with injured ankles. Surprise of the day was the unexpected arrival of Margaret and Don Dietrich, custodians of the Lodge last year, who soon made themselves at home cutting meat and answering questions.

New Year's Eve was a little warmer than previous nights, welcomed by the revelers out visiting the adjacent resorts along the highway - and by Lewis Clark and his party of cross country skiers whose trip to Anderson, Tinker's Knob and on down Squaw Valley took longer than anticipated. They arrived at the Lodge at 2 A.M., New Year's Day, cold, hungry and tired from fifteen hours on skis and a long cold trip home delayed by getting a ride in from Tahoe. They had missed connections by a few minutes with skiers sent to meet them who assumed they were camping out for the night.

As for those at the Lodge, games, folk dancing, songs that shook the tree tops and surely could be heard as far as Peter Grubb filled the hours until midnight - helped along by the kitchen "bar" opened auspiciously around 11:00 with hot buttered rum for those who desired it - and hot spiced fruit juice for the younger skiers - or the more judicious older ones.

The annual Rock Climbers New Year Dinner at Peter Grubb was delayed until the following week-end, when some 12 skiers packed in the five miles for one of Charlotte Mauk's traditional New Year dinners. The snow was crusty and those who climbed Castle Peak reported wind slab and difficult skiing conditions, but all voted it a most successful - but all too short - party just the same.

Yodeler extends sincere sympathy to Marjory Dickieson in the loss of her father; and to Jessie Alford, whose father died recently.

SCHEDULE SCOOPED!

There is a desert trip in the offing.

Jim Barbour, who led the first Bay Chapter desert expeditions in 1939, 1940, and 1941, plans to take a group farther afield this spring. He will be aided by Al Schmitz, who knows the desert country better than the Indians do.

During the period of April 19-27, the beautiful and isolated Havasu Canyon in Grand Canyon National Park will be visited, as well as Grand Canyon itself.

This will be a trip by private automobiles (and saddle horses into Havasu Canyon), and each group will arrange its own commissary.

Watch for more details in the next schedule and in later Yodelers.

Death Valley Trip Resumed

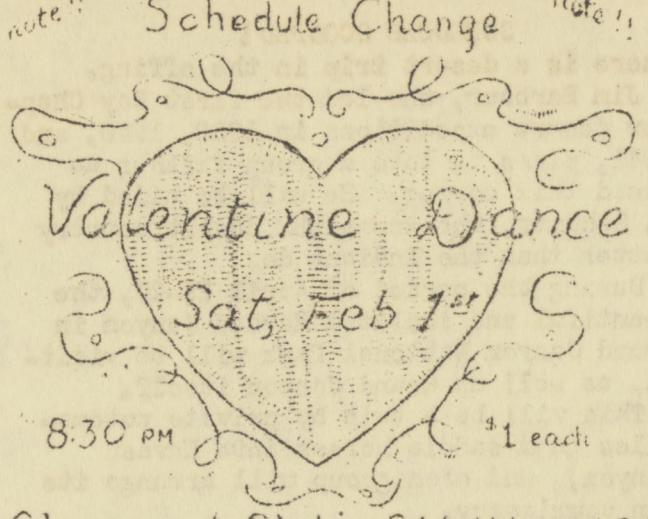
We have just received word from Professor A. T. Bawden that the College of the Pacific's tenth Death Valley Inspection Trip will be held March 28-April 5. The expedition visits the Mojave Desert, Death Valley, and Boulder Dam. The total cost, including meals, transportation, entrance fees and swimming fees, is $48.50. This is a non-profit expedition. If the members bring their automobiles, the expedition will pay for the gas and oil and $5.00 for each person who rides in the automobile.

The College of the Pacific has found Sierra Club members to be good "sage brushers", and will be glad to receive a limited number of Sierra Club applicants for the 1947 trip. Write to Professor Bawden for descriptive literature and application blanks--the party will be limited to 200.

WATKINS PINNACLE CLIMBED

Concise and to the point (or should we say pinnacle?) is the report recently received of the first ascent of one of the Watkins Pinnacles. This ascent was made by Al Baxter of the Sierra Club, and Rupert Gates, Stanford Alpine Club, on December 17, 1946.

Al writes: "Route: down arete from summit of Mt. Watkins, 300' fixed rope to tree above saddle--easy climb to Razorback Pinnacle. Used Prusik to get on summit slope." (Sounds more like a descent than an ascent to us!--Ed) "Due to the short days we had only time to climb Razorback, the most simple of the group. The highest and lowest offer some interesting climbing."



A SUPER CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST

Biscuits and honey--ham and omelette--um-umm! Tillie Smedberg, ably assisted by Louise Million and Amy Deeter, and combined forces of Sierra, Alpine, and Contra Costa Hills Club men folks, served a delectable breakfast on Christmas Day to 55 guests.

Cy Washburn kept things humming, "somewhat" assisted by Santa Claus (Frank Stannard), and Mary Reynolds, who played the piano for the carol singing. Decorations were beautifully handled by Cicely Christy and Ruby Nolan. Red berries were sent from Santa Cruz by Phyrne Lorenz. Amy Deeter told a delightful Christmas story.

Thanks also to Herb Arner for handling finances, and to Walter Scott and Danny Genther for a complete clean-up job.

According to the pleased expressions of all present, this is a genial, happy event which has become traditional.

Again a special THANKS to Tillie, who came over from Berkeley, cooked the breakfast, and then drove to Sacramento for her Christmas Day. --Marjory H. Dickieson

WANTED: Bergen-type knapsack, or any type suitable for a woman; also nylon tent. Dorothy Loiselle, ORdway 6436.

! ! W A R N I N G ! !

The 20-mile hike, Bottini to Mill Valley, scheduled for January 19, is for experienced hikers. Please bring flashlight and extra lunch for a sunset snack. This is probably the most scenic trip in Marin County--but it will be a real workout--no fooling!

TUESDAY DINNER SPECIALS

Those who missed Club Secretary Dick Leonard's thoughtful discussion of the San Gorgonio problem on January 7 will have an opportunity to hear a further expression of the Club's official position at the next dinner--January 14. Art Blake will be the speaker, and from his first-hand knowledge of the situation we can all learn a great deal. So be at the Women's City Club, 465 Post Street--at 6:00 for dinner, or at 7:00 for Art's talk, if you can't make it for dinner.

On January 21, John Schagen will talk on an unusual subject: Maps. We don't know what kind of maps John is going to speak about, but as he was with an Engineer Topographic Battalion in the Pacific during the war, he ought to know a good deal about it.

RAIN DOESN'T FAZE 'EM

It takes more than a holiday hangover and an early rain to keep the Local Walkers at home on the last Sunday of the year. 35 hikers, with their raincoats and ponchos, set a determined pace from Kentfield along the Hoo-Koo-E-Koo Trail. Mountain Home was really "invaded" for lunch, but the ever-hospitable Drummonds (plaid shirt and all) were more than equal to it. Leaders Madge and Isabelle Torrance wound up the day by taking the group back to Mill Valley.

WEST POINT SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY

11-12	Florence Wilke	Eves. EV 1488
*18-19	Rosa Selle	Eves. GR 1531
	Mina Woolverton -	Days: San Anselmo 3143-W
25-26	Mary Herman	Eves. MO 2983

* Central Commissary

JANUARY BICYCLE TRIPS

11 Stanyan Street Cyclery, 672 Stanyan Street, San Francisco

25 Stanyan Street Cyclery (Trips start at 2:30 PM)